THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 22nd April 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Commandants for training of Home Guards.

* 58 *Q.*—SRI N. SANKARA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the recently appointed commandants for training Home Guards are fully qualified for the work;

(*b*) whether they are ex-military men; and

(*c*) whether any preference was given to people belonging to the districts bordering on the Nizam's Dominions?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Home Minister) :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Some of them are ex-military men.

" (*c*) No."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether before the selection was made, the posts were advertised for? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I think so, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether those posts were also open to the I.N.A. men? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would request a further question to be put for further information whether exactly the I.N.A. men were informed of it or not. So far as I am able to know from the list before me, there are no I.N.A. men in the list selected so far."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Was the selection made by Government or by any *ad hoc* committee set up for the purpose? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The selection was made by the Inspector-General of Police and one or two others."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, how many have been selected? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As many as 12 have been selected."

[22nd April 1948

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know how many from the districts of the Rayalaseema? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" For that I want further notice."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the training of Home Guards has commenced actually? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The officers are being trained for the business and as soon as they are trained, recruits will be taken for training."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Home Guards have to be constituted in the locality, do not Government realize the necessity for appointing people of the place in order to attract the people to the organization? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As a matter of principle it is better that people of the particular locality are not there as officers engaged in training men and it is an advantage to have the agency of officers who do not belong to that particular district."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that this is a voluntary force, is it not desirable, Sir, that people of the locality in whom the volunteers will have confidence, are there so that they may attract the people? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is only a question of training officers and so, there is no difficulty at all in the matter."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister furnish the names of commandants selected."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I can read it out to the House; they are—

Lt. E. P. T. Thomas, Regional Transport Officer, Vellore,
Sri Vedachalam,
Mr. P. L. Albert,
Sri A. R. Balagopal,
Sri P. K. Padmanabhan,
Sri Ratnakara Rai,
Sri Satyanarayana Reddi,
Sri V. Somasundaram,
Sri Devasagayam,
Sri V. J. Manoharan,
Second Lt. D. Reddamma, and
Sri D. Krishnamurthi."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Reddamma : is it a lady? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am not able to find the sex but I am sure he is a gentleman and not a lady." (Laughter.)